HARRIS COMICS

VAMPIRELLA®

Queen's Gambit 3 of 3

MONTHLY 9

CONNER + PALMIOTTI '98

THE STORY SO FAR...

The mysterious White Bishop has revealed the future—all of humanity is doomed, unless Vampirella and Shi can find the one child who is the key to the vampire apocalypse. Sending the sisterhood to retrieve the child, Vampirella and Shi decide to go on the offensive, and take the fight to the architect of the apocalypse—the Black Bishop. Disaster strikes when Vampirella is possessed by the Blood Red Queen of Heats and her insane bloodlust!

ELSEWHERE:

A CLEVER MOVE.

CLEVER? MY QUEEN TOOK YOURS! YOU'RE ALL BUT DEFEATED!

YOU SHOULD BE IN PANIC BY NOW.

PANIC IS DISORDERLY...

"... AND IT IS ONLY A GAME..."

NEW YORK:

TWO MORE HEARTS FOR CHAOS! THE BLACK BISHOP'S SLUT'S--

HER NAME WAS PATRICE!

-- AND SOON, YOUR HEART.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHAT HER NAME WAS? OR YOURS? YOU'RE JUST LIKE BILLIONS OF OTHER WEAK, SOFT HUMANS--

-- A BREATH AWAY FROM EXTINCTION.

SOON THE SLUT'S SEED WILL USHER IN AN *APOCALYPSE*, AND YOU-- THIS ENTIRE *WORLD*-- WILL BE WIPED FROM EXISTENCE!

WHY?!

WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS?!

I DON'T *QUESTION* CHAOS. *ONCE* I DID, AND *SEE* WHAT I AM.

A *SPIRIT*, CAST DOWN *CENTURIES* FROM BODY TO BODY!

BUT NOW I HAVE *THIS* ONE, SUPPLE AND *STRONG*. AS *IMMORTAL* AS *I*.

AND IN MY HEAD, VAMPIRELLA SCREAMS AND SCREAMS, A CONSTANT *SYMPHONY* OF AGONY TO ENTERTAIN ME.

SUCH INTERESTING THIRSTS. I COULD SPEND *ETERNITY* IN THIS BODY!

THEN AGAIN ETERNITY ISN'T AS LONG AS IT USED TO BE, *IS* IT?

I'LL NEVER LET YOU FIND PATRICE'S DAUGHTER!

I KNOW WHERE SHE'LL BE.

I KNOW EVERYTHING VAMPIRELLA KNEW.

YOU'RE ONE OMNISCIENT BITCH AREN'T YOU?

DID SHE KNOW HOW EASILY I COULD HAVE KILLED HER?*

ARRR!

*VAMPIRELLA #7

OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY.

AND IF I'M FORCED TO TRADE THIS BODY FOR ANOTHER--YOURS I THINK--I'LL STILL KNOW WHERE THE CHILD IS.

SHE'LL STILL BE MINE.

DAMN YOU!

THIS IS THE BLACK BISHOP'S STRONGHOLD! YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO RUN!

DEATH IS THE ONLY EXIT--UNLESS HE WILLS OTHERWISE!

SOMETHING YOU SHOULD REMEMBER. WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?

SHE HURT ME..

AND THIS MATTERS HOW? I GAVE YOU A MISSION.

DO IT!

I'LL REEL THIS "SHI" IN. YOU CAN HAVE HER WHEN YOU'VE BROUGHT THE CHILD HERE.

SHI TO SISTERHOOD. ABORT THE PLAN. GET MICHELE AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER OUT OF THERE

ARE YOU RECEIVING ME? ANYONE?

SISTERHOOD HQ, NEW YORK:

INNOCENT CHILD Yadda Yadda UN-TAINTED WOMAN END OF THE WORLD Blah Blah Blah

THE BLACK POPE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE *READING* THIS THING--OCCULT LORE AS SLEEPING PILL. *JEEZ.*

IS VAMPIRELLA *HERE?* I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO FIND HER.

WHAT? NO! SHE'S... *uh...*

WHO *ARE* YOU? HOW DID *YOU* GET IN?

TELL HER I'LL BE BACK.

WAIT A MINUTE!

WAIT!

DID YOU SEE THAT *WOMAN?!*

YOU MUST BE *MISTAKEN.* NOTHING'S BREACHED OUR SECURITY.

OH, SURE, IGNORE THE *KID.*

FOCUS, OKAY? WE JUST GOT A *MESSAGE*-- VAMPIRELLA'S ON HER WAY *BACK.*

SHE'S GONE OVER TO THE *OTHER SIDE!*

THE BITTERSWEET *STING* OF THE AIR ON THIS TONGUE--THE WANTON, TOTAL *CARESS* OF EVERY BREEZE-

I *SEE* WHY YOU LOVE THIS WORLD, VAMPIRELLA.

THE ACID SCENT OF *HOT BLOOD*, FOR THE *TAKING!*

EVERY ORGASMIC RIPPLE OF TENSING *SINEW!*

TO INHABIT THE NIGHT, WITH EVERY FEEBLE THING THAT CRAWLS BENEATH IT A *VICTIM-TO-BE*--

THIS IS *LIVING!*

SCREAM!

SCREAM SO EVEN *VAMPIRELLA* CAN HEAR YOU AND SUFFER *MORE*, KNOWING IT'S *HER* CLAWS TEARING AT YOU!

I MAY NOT *PIERCE* YOUR SUITS OF CHASTITY LATEX, BUT THERE'S MORE THAN *ONE* WAY TO DELIVER PAIN!

I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THIS WAS WISE, BRINGING MY REBECCA HERE.

THE SISTERHOOD IS **DEDICATED** TO THE DEFENSE OF INNOCENTS, MRS. ESPOSITO. THERE'S **NOWHERE** IN THIS WORLD SHE'D BE SAFER.

BUT THE WAY **YOU** TALK, WE'RE STARING DOWN THE **END** OF THE WORLD.

THERE'S NO SUCH **THING** AS SAFETY ANYMORE, **IS** THERE?

STILL, I'D FEEL BETTER IF ANNA-- I MEAN **SHI**-- WERE HERE. OR **VAMPIRELLA**.

THEY SAY THERE'S A **SURPRISE** INSIDE EVERY WISH, OLD WOMAN-

AND IN EVERY BOX OF **CRACKER JAX**. WHO **CARES**?

AAARR!

NOW **WHY** DO I THINK YOU'RE NOT USED TO VAMPI'S HEIGHTENED **SENSES** YET?

AN APOSTLE'S NET?

CHEAP BLESSED TWINE AGAINST ME? YOU REALLY *ARE* IDIOTS!

STEALING YOUR HEARTS WILL BE *TOO* EASY!

MINE BELONGS TO *LEONARDO DiCAPRIO*, THANKS.

YOU'RE A *FOOL*, GIRL! VAMPIRELLA'S A *NEW* VAMPIRE!

OLD *FETISHES* LIKE AN APOSTLE'S NET AND HOLY WATER ARE *USELESS* AGAINST HER.

GEE, THAT *IS* DUMB OF ME. BUT I HEAR YOU'RE AN OLD FASHIONED TYPE.

<"LO GUIDIAMO DA QUESTA DONNA, CHIUNQUE CHE PUÒ ESSERE, SPIRITI SPORCHI, TUTTI POTERI SCURI, TUTTI INVASORI INFERNALI, TUTTE LEGIONI CATTIVE, RIUNIONI E SETTE.">

<"MAGGIO CHE È AFFERRATO VIA E CONTROLLATO DALLA NOSTRA VISTA E DALLA SUA ANIMA, NEL NOME DEL DIO.">

EXORCISM'S A *BITCH*, HUH?

VAMPI, YOU *OKAY?* WASN'T THAT *COOL?* WHIPPED HER BUTT *GOOD*, DIDN'T I?

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU LEARN *THAT* TRICK?

RIGHT, LIKE I'VE BEEN READING THAT STUPID BLACK TESTAMENT FOR *ENTERTAINMENT.*

HERE! BURN THIS THING!

DO *WHATEVER* YOU LIKE, BUT KEEP THAT EVIL WOMAN *AWAY* FROM MY GRAND-DAUGHTER!

DON'T TOUCH THAT!

NOT STRONG, OR IMMORTAL, BUT A PLEASANTLY *MALLEABLE* BODY. IT WILL *DO*...UNTIL IT BURNS OUT.

EVERYONE STAY THEIR *DISTANCE*, OR THE CHILD DIES *NOW*.

I BELIEVE THE TERM IS '*CHECK MATE*.'

LIKE *HELL*! KILL THEM *BOTH*!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AT *STAKE*! *DO* IT!

NOT '*THEM*.' ONLY A MONSTER LIKE *YOU* COULD MURDER SUCH A SWEET *INNOCENT*.

I'LL SEE YOU *SOON*, VAMPIRELLA. BEFORE THE *END*, I'LL TAKE YOU AGAIN.

-- FOREVER.

GIVE IT UP, WOMAN. YOU'RE ONLY WASTING ENERGY.

THOUGH I ADMIT YOUR RESILIENCY AND TENACITY WOULD BE QUITE INSPIRATIONAL, WERE YOU NOT SO PITIFULLY OUTMATCHED.

AS SUCH, I CHALK IT UP TO A MENTAL FLAW.

YOU'RE SIMPLY TOO STUPID TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BEATEN.

AND INSPIRATION IS A QUALITY I CAN SCARCELY AFFORD TO TOLERATE IN ANY CASE.

Ah.

THIS DOES **NOT** PUT ME IN A MERCIFUL MOOD.

I **LIKED** THAT STATUE.

IF IT'S DAMAGED BEFORE I CAN **RETRIEVE** IT, I'LL HAVE TO TEAR A **LIMB** OR TWO OFF YOU.

WHAT?!

SHE'S **DONE** IT! THE CHILD IS **MINE!**

WAIT YOUR TURN.

SET REBECCA ESPOSITO **DOWN!** THERE'S **NO** WAY OUT!

FOR **YOU,** PERHAPS.

WE OF CHAOS TEAR DOORS OPEN WHERE NONE **EXIST**--AND, OH! WHAT **I** WILL RIP FROM **YOU**—

DAMN IT!

WHY COULDN'T YOU HOLD ONTO HER?

I GOT HER OUT OF YOU, DIDN'T I?

NOT THE BLOOD RED QUEEN.!

--THE BABY.!

REBECCA'S GOT TO DIE NOW-- THERE'S NO CHOICE!

IN THE BLACK BISHOP'S HANDS, SHE'LL TRIGGER THE END OF THE WORLD!

THAT'S THE CHILD--?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

VAMP! WAIT.!!

I READ ALL ABOUT THIS IN THE BLACK TESTAMENT.!

THE APOCALYPSE WILL ONLY BE LET LOOSE IF--

--IF SHE'S SLAIN BY AN UNTAINTED WOMAN-- LIKE -- LIKE -- YOU--

OH, #@&%

SHI!

NOT SO LOUD...YOU SEEN MY HEAD AROUND HERE ANYWHERE...?

THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. WHERE DID THE BLOOD RED QUEEN GO?

IS THAT HER NAME?

THAT WAY... JUST A MOMENT AGO. SHE SEEMED... ...DIFFERENT...

SHE'S GOT MICHELE AND REBECCA.

I TRIED DOING IT YOUR WAY.

I'M SORRY.

WHAT?

DON'T YOU DO IT, VAMPIRELLA! YOU PROMISED!

I SWEAR IF YOU HURT PATRICE'S DAUGHTER, I'LL HUNT YOU TO YOUR DEATH!

HOW SENTIMENTAL.

YOU PLAYED YOUR PART IN OUR LITTLE DRAMA BEAUTIFULLY, BUT LEARN WHEN TO LEAVE THE STAGE.

IF I'D ONLY WANTED REBECCA, I COULD HAVE TAKEN HER ANYTIME. DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK OF THAT?

TO TAINT VAMPIRELLA'S SOUL WITH COLD-BLOODED MURDER, AND TURN HER TO THE CHAOS CREATURE SHE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE--

-- THERE'S A PRIZE WORTHY OF THE GAME!

HOW UNEXPECTED. I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SNIVELING OFF TO SPEW ALL YOUR GOODBYES BEFORE THE END.

WE HAVE WON, YOU KNOW.

I WANT TO MAKE A DEAL, NOT FIGHT.

WE BOTH KNOW HOW MUCH YOU DUG MY BODY.

STOP THIS, LET THE ESPOSITOS GO, SWEAR NOT TO GO AFTER THEM, AND YOU CAN HAVE IT.

Hmmm? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

THOUGH YOUR BODY--YOUR BEAUTIFUL, SENSUAL IMMORTAL BODY---YES, I WOULD FORSAKE ANY CAUSE--BETRAY ANY MASTER--FOR THAT--

MICHELE! SHE KILLED PATRICE!

FIGHT HER!

IMPOSSIBLE! YOUR SOUL SHOULD BE CRUSHED!

NOT... WHILE SOMETHING... I LOVE... REMAINS...

YOU RIDICULOUS OLD COW. YOU HAVEN'T GOT IT IN YOU TO STOP ME.

I LOVE MY GRANDDAUGHTER MORE THAN LIFE.

HAVE A HEART.

SHE...? OH, CHAOS... OH, HELP ME... *HELP* ME... SHE'S *DYING!*

I...

...I CAN'T GET OUT.

WITCH.

POOR MICHELE. IF *ONLY*... IF ONLY THAT HAD *CHANGED* ANYTHING...

BUT IT DIDN'T.

WHILE YOU LIVE, REBECCA, THE WORLD IS IN DANGER.

GOD FORGIVE ME.

IT'S *DONE*. YOU'VE BEEN *PRIVILEGED* TO WITNESS THE END OF YOUR ERA.

NOW BE THE FIRST TO DIE IN THE *NEW* AGE.

GO TO HELL!

I'VE BEEN, THANKYOU...IT'S NOTHING TO GET ECXITED ABOUT...

COME HERE... AND YOU CAN SEE... FOR YOURSELF...

I WARNED YOU.

VAMPIRELLA!

NO!

I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHEN SIX BILLION PEOPLE NEEDED ME TO BE RESOLUTE, AND MAKE THE HARD CHOICE...

...ALL I COULD HEAR WAS *YOUR* TALK... OF *MERCY*...

SHE'S JUST A *BABY*... I COULDN'T DO IT... I *COULDN'T*...

AFTER *ALL* THAT, MY VAST AND PERFECT WEB OF DECEIT *COLLAPSES*-- BECAUSE *YOU* RELAPSE TO *FAITH* AND *INSTINCT*. AND NOT EVEN THE INSTINCT OF A *VAMPIRE!*

DISGUSTING.

HE GETS TO JUST *WALK AWAY?*

IF YOU CARE TO LIVE. DON'T MISTAKE HIS *DISINTEREST* FOR *VULNERABILITY*

THE *WHITE BISHOP!* WHERE DID *YOU* COME FROM?

ORDER IS FOUND IN *ALL* PLACES, VAMPIRELLA, *IF* YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

I THINK IT BEST *I* TAKE THE CHILD NOW, FOR THE SAKE OF ALL CONCERNED.

CHAOS CANNOT *TOUCH* MY REALM, NOR CAN IT TOUCH *REBECCA ESPOSITO* THERE -- AND SO CANNOT USE HER AGAINST YOUR WORLD.

SHE'S *HUMAN*, SHE SHOULD *BE* WITH HUMANS. WHAT WILL SHE BE IF LEFT TO BE RAISED BY *YOU*?

AT MINIMUM, *ALIVE*. CAN *YOU* PROMISE AS MUCH?

HE'S **RIGHT.** WITH HIM, SHE'S GOT A CHANCE. HERE, SHE'LL BE **HUNTED**-- A DANGER TO HERSELF AND US.

YOU SAVED HER.

IS THAT WHAT YOU SAVED HER **FOR?**

ME?!

YOU. I'VE KILLED **SO** MUCH, SO **EASILY** LATELY THAT I STARTED BARELY THINKING ABOUT IT.

I **WOULD** HAVE SLAIN REBECCA--I COULD **JUSTIFY** IT-- UNTIL **YOU** REMINDED ME OF **EMPATHY** AND **MERCY.**

YOU WERE MY CONSCIENCE WHEN I **NEEDED** ONE. I HOPE I CAN CALL YOU **FRIEND.**

WELL... YOU'RE **STILL** AN ABOMINATION...

THOUGH AS ABOMINATIONS GO, YOU'RE NOT HALF BAD.

VERY TOUCHING, BUT THIS PLACE WILL COLLAPSE INTO **REAL** SPACE IN, OH, ROUGHLY **30 SECONDS.** PERHAPS WE SHOULD **GO?**

IS THERE ANYWHERE I CAN **DROP** YOU?

CHECK.

AND MATE?

I THINK NOT.

THE PALACE OF THE WHITE BISHOP:

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME, REBECCA.

NO ONE'S EVER GOING TO HURT YOU AGAIN.

SUCH SMUG CERTAINTY.

SEE WHAT BAD HABITS SHE'D PICK UP IF LEFT WITH YOU?

YOU CAN'T BE HERE... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

THE RULES...

I'M NYX, REMEMBER? THE DAUGHTER OF CHAOS. I DON'T BELIEVE IN RULES.

BUT THIS LITTLE SWEETHEART JUST BRINGS OUT MY MATERNAL INSTINCTS.

NOW I CAN SHOW EVERYONE WHY I'M THE BIGGEST MOTHER IN EXISTENCE.

NEXT ▶ HELL ON EARTH #1

VAMPIRELLA®

GUEST-STARRING

'SHI™

QUEEN'S GAMBIT

GRANT MORRISON MILLAR CONNER PALMIOTTI

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